Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly for a flat wire member having a plurality of wirings integrated with each other in a flat shape, comprising:

a first connector including connecting terminals accommodated therein, each terminal having a contact arm, and

a second connector for holding the flat wire member, the second connector including a plate-shaped supporting member for supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the leading end portion on the supporting member, the supporting member and the housing holding the leading end portion in such a way that the leading end portion is movable in its widthwise direction relative to the supporting member, with a portion of the leading end portion being exposed on the housing, the first and second connectors having structures to couple the connectors with each other by slidably fitting portions of the connectors one on the other, with the leading end portion of the flat wire member being inserted into the first connector to engage the wirings with the contact arms, and the first connector further including a positioning member which is to engage a side of the leading end portion of the flat wire member to position the leading end portion in its widthwise direction relative to the contact arm when the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector.

14. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein the flat wire member is formed with a pair of protruding portions protruding from a leading edge of the leading end portion of the flat wire member at its opposite widthwise ends, the protruding portions extending in the direction in which the leading end portion is inserted into

the first connector, such that the protruding portions come into contact with the positioning member before the wirings on the flat wire member is inserted in the first connector.

15. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 14, wherein the second connector further include a restricting member fixedly mounted on an underside of the flat wire member, and the plate-shaped supporting member is formed with a restricting recess for receiving the restricting member to prevent the restricting member from moving relative to the plate-shaped supporting member, in the direction of the insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member, while allowing the movement of the restricting member to move in the widthwise direction of the flat wire member relative to the plate-shaped supporting member.

16. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 14, wherein the second connector further includes means for placing the flat wire member on the plate-shaped supporting member in a state that the flat wire member is inclined downward toward its leading end with respect to the plane of the plate-shaped supporting member to prevent interference between the leading end and the first connector when the leading end portion of the flat wire member is inserted into the first connector.

17. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 14, wherein the width of a leading end portion of the supporting member is the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member such that a portion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member goes out of the plate-shaped supporting member to be engaged and positioned by the positioning member upon insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member into the first connector.

18. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 17, wherein the second connector further includes means for placing the flat wire member on the flat-shaped supporting member in a state that the flat wire member is inclined downward toward its

leading end with respect to the plane of the plate-shaped supporting member to prevent interference between the leading end and the first connector when the leading end portion of the flat wire member is inserted into the first connector.

19. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 17, wherein the second connector further includes a restricting member fixedly mounted on an underside of the flat wire member, and the plate-shaped supporting member is formed with a restricting recess for receiving the restricting member to prevent the restricting member from moving, relative to the plate-shaped supporting member, in the direction of the insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member, while allowing the movement of the restricting member to move in the widthwise direction of the flat wire member relative to the plate-shaped supporting member.

20. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 19, wherein the second connector further includes means for placing the flat wire member on the plate-shaped supporting member in a state that the flat wire member is inclined downward toward its leading end with respect to the plane of the plate-shaped supporting member to prevent interference between the leading end and the first connector when the leading end portion of the flat wire member is inserted into the first connector.

21. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 20, wherein the supporting member is formed with a protecting portion extending along the leading edge of the supporting member to cover and protect the leading edge of the flat wire member.

22. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein the width of the leading end portion of the supporting member is the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member such that a portion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member goes out of the plate-shaped supporting member to be engaged and

positioned by the positioning member upon insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member into the first connector.

23. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein the second connector further include a restricting member fixedly mounted on an underside of the flat wire member, and the plate-shaped supporting member is formed with a restricting recess for receiving the restricting member to prevent the restricting member from moving, relative to the plate-shaped supporting member, in the direction of the insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member, while allowing the movement of the restricting member to move in the widthwise direction of the flat wire member relative to the plate-shaped supporting member.

24. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein the second connector further includes means for placing the flat wire member on the plate-shaped supporting member in a state that the leading end portion of the flat wire member is inclined downward toward its leading end with respect to the plane of the plate-shaped supporting member to prevent interference between the leading end and the first connector when the leading end portion of the flat wire member is inserted into the first connector.

25. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein the flat wire member has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first connector has a first hood portion and second hood portion, the second connector includes a first plate-shaped supporter and a second plate-shaped supporter for restrictively supporting the first and second end portions of the flat wire member, and a first housing and a second housing for respectively holding the first and second end portions of the flat wire member, and the first and second end portions of the flat wire member are respectively inserted into the first and second hood portions.

26. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein the flat wire member is formed with a pair of recesses and ~~the~~ a plate-shaped supporter is formed with a pair of projections on the opposite sides of the supporter, the projections being respectively received by the recesses when the supporter supports the leading end portion of the flat wire member, the distance between the projections being larger than the distance between bottom sides of the recesses to allow the leading end portion of the flat wire member to move in its widthwise direction.

27. (New) A connector assembly for a flat wire member having a plurality of wirings, comprising:

a first connector including connecting terminals accommodated therein, each terminal having a contact arm, and

a second connector for holding the flat wire member, the second connector including a plate-shaped supporting member for supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the leading end portion on the supporting member, the supporting member and the housing holding the leading end portion in such a way that the leading end portion is movable in its widthwise direction, with a portion of the leading end portion being exposed on the housing, the first and second connectors having structures to couple the connectors with each other by slidably fitting portions of the connectors one on the other, with the leading end portion of the flat wire member being inserted into the first connector to engage the contact arms, and the first connector further including a positioning member which is to engage a side of the leading end portion of the flat wire member to position the leading end portion in its widthwise direction relative to the contact arm when the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector,

wherein the flat wire member is formed with a pair of protruding portions protruding from a leading edge of the leading end portion of the flat wire member at its opposite

widthwise ends, the protruding portions extending in the direction in which the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector, such that the protruding portions come into contact with the positioning member before the wirings on the flat wire member is inserted in the first connector.

28. (New) A connector assembly for a flat wire member having a plurality of wirings, comprising:

a first connector including connecting terminals accommodated therein, each terminal having a contact arm, and

a second connector for holding the flat wire member, the second connector including a plate-shaped supporting member for supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the leading end portion on the supporting member, the supporting member and the housing holding the leading end portion in such a way that the leading end portion is movable in its widthwise direction, with a portion of the leading end portion being exposed on the housing, the first and second connectors having structures to couple the connectors with each other by slidably fitting portions of the connectors one on the other, with the leading end portion of the flat wire member being inserted into the first connector to engage the contact arms, and the first connector further including a positioning member which is to engage a side of the leading end portion of the flat wire member to position the leading end portion in its widthwise direction relative to the contact arm when the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector,

wherein the width of the leading end portion of the supporting member is the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member such that a portion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member goes out of the plate-shaped supporting member to be engaged and positioned by the positioning member upon insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member into the first connector.

29. (New) A connector assembly for a flat wire member having a plurality of wirings, comprising:

a first connector including connecting terminals accommodated therein, each terminal having a contact arm, and

a second connector for holding the flat wire member, the second connector including a plate-shaped supporting member for supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the leading end portion on the supporting member, the supporting member and the housing holding the leading end portion in such a way that the leading end portion is movable in its widthwise direction, with a portion of the leading end portion being exposed on the housing, the first and second connectors having structures to couple the connectors with each other by slidably fitting portions of the connectors one on the other, with the leading end portion of the flat wire member being inserted into the first connector to engage the contact arms, and the first connector further including a positioning member which is to engage a side of the leading end portion of the flat wire member to position the leading end portion in its widthwise direction relative to the contact arm when the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector,

wherein the second connector further includes a restricting member fixedly mounted on an underside of the flat wire member, and the plate-shaped supporting member is formed with a restricting recess for receiving the restricting member to prevent the restricting member from moving, relative to the plate-shaped supporting member, in the direction of the insertion of the leading end portion of the flat wire member, while allowing the movement of the restricting member to move in the widthwise direction of the flat wire member relative to the plate-shaped supporting member.

30. (New) A connector assembly for a flat wire member having a plurality of wirings, comprising:

a first connector including connecting terminals accommodated therein, each terminal having a contact arm, and

a second connector for holding the flat wire member, the second connector including a plate-shaped supporting member for supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the leading end portion on the supporting member, the supporting member and the housing holding the leading end portion in such a way that the leading end portion is movable in its widthwise direction, with a portion of the leading end portion being exposed on the housing, the first and second connectors having structures to couple the connectors with each other by slidably fitting portions of the connectors one on the other, with the leading end portion of the flat wire member being inserted into the first connector to engage the contact arms, and the first connector further including a positioning member which is to engage a side of the leading end portion of the flat wire member to position the leading end portion in its widthwise direction relative to the contact arm when the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector,

wherein the flat wire member has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first connector has a first hood portion and second hood portion, the second connector includes a first plate-shaped supporter and a second plate-shaped supporter for restrictively supporting the first and second end portions of the flat wire member, and a first housing and a second housing for respectively holding the first and second end portions of the flat wire member, and the first and second end portions of the flat wire member are respectively inserted into the first and second hood portions.

31. (New) A connector assembly for a flat wire member having a plurality of wirings, comprising:

a first connector including connecting terminals accommodated therein, each terminal having a contact arm, and

a second connector for holding the flat wire member, the second connector including a plate-shaped supporting member for supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the leading end portion on the supporting member, the supporting member and the housing holding the leading end portion in such a way that the leading end portion is movable in its widthwise direction, with a portion of the leading end portion being exposed on the housing, the first and second connectors having structures to couple the connectors with each other by slidably fitting portions of the connectors one on the other, with the leading end portion of the flat wire member being inserted into the first connector to engage the contact arms, and the first connector further including a positioning member which is to engage a side of the leading end portion of the flat wire member to position the leading end portion in its widthwise direction relative to the contact arm when the leading end portion is inserted into the first connector,

wherein the flat wire member is formed with a pair of recesses and a plate-shaped supporter is formed with a pair of projections on the opposite sides of the supporter, the projections being respectively received by the recesses when the supporter supports the leading end portion of the flat wire member, the distance between the projections being larger than the distance between bottom sides of the recesses to allow the leading end portion of the flat wire member to move in its widthwise direction.